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*The Gazette*



**DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE**

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### **MAJOR ISSUES IN THE NEWS**

- Imprisonment of innocent citizens continues
- Embittered locals demolish office and residential houses of security establishment
- Shift of military training centre
- Eritrea-Sudan border shut off again
- Efforts under way to foil PFDJ phony festival
- Employment virtually impossible without depositing Nakfa 1000 in advance
- Call for assistance to Eritrean refugees
- Followers of various faiths brutally harassed and humiliated
- PFDJ embarks on hoarding contributions for alms
- Demonstration to be staged

## **Imprisonment of innocent citizens continues**

A new and extensive wave of arrests of innocent citizens is continuing across the country. Intensive harassment, intimidation and imprisonment is escalating at an alarming rate, especially in localities in the vicinity of Asmara, the capital. According to reliable local sources, many peasants have been imprisoned in Dec, 14.

Addi-Guadad a small town, situated on the way to Mendefera Asmara is only 5 km. away from the latter. Its resident peasants were arrested because they were unwilling to expose the names of some people whom the dictatorial regime accuses of conducting religious education and hence criminals. More frustrating to the regime, the peasants did not want to present the accused peasants to the authorities.

Gulf News reported that initially, the peasants were driven to a military prison in Beleza. But Beleza prison was very congested with previously captured persons and for the same reason the authorities transferred them to Bet Ghiorghis.

## **Embittered locals demolish office and residential houses of security establishment**

In a news dispatched by Asmarino from Asmara, the people of Tsezega, a large community not very far away from the capital have destroyed in the dark hours of Dec. 11, 2006, property belonging to the security establishment of the oppressive regime. Frustrated by the system's unabated atrocities against the destitute people and its harsh treatment of innocent citizens, the locals set the security offices on fire demolishing the building and their facilities to rubble. Among those destroyed by fire were properties of security members and administrator of Tsezega.

## **Shift of military training centre**

The rogue PFDJ regime is these days engaging itself in shifting the Sawa military center to other locations. Sawa has over the years been an essential component of the systems indoctrination and military regimentation of the youth. It has until end of 2005 trained tens of thousands of youth against their wish and the wish of their parents.

Now it seems that the blood-shedding system is to abandon Sawa, the once capital of militarization, and install training facilities in Marsa Gulbul an Kelionous instead.

According to Gulf News, the impoverishing regime has opted for such a change since Sawa is near the border to the Sudan and hence apprehensive that trainees could escape their camps and cross to the Sudan, as has been proven true in many occasions. Needless to say, the two new locations earmarked for military training are isolated and hence far from urban and rural areas compounding to the ill fate of young recruits.

## **Eritrea-Sudan border shut off again**

The border between Eritrea and the Sudan was opened a month ago upon agreement reached between the two countries. According to sources from inside the Sudan, the reason for the closure of the border is the PFDJ system.

Though the two governments had initially agreed that movement of their citizens to and fro would be made by exit visa, the Eritrean government in no time breached the agreement so reached by both countries. Outside the context of the agreement, Eritrea began to demand that Sudanese nationals bound to go to that country should obtain the approval and permission of its Embassy in the Sudan.

The PFDJ is a besieged system surrounded by political, social and economic problems. It is a 'black ship' in the family of neighboring nations, all of its own making. Realizing that it is alone against all odds, it is inclined to think that it would reconsider its agreement so that the border between the two countries could resume functioning which would be more advantageous to the beleaguered regime than to the Sudan.

### **Efforts under way to foil PFDJ phony festival**

The Gulf Information Center disclosed that Eritreans living in Melbourne, Australia and who advocate for Peace and Democracy in their country are exerting their very best pressure to foil the festival from occurring which the oppressive regime has planned to organize in Australia.

The Gulf Information centre is of the contention that what the irresponsible system is attempting in organizing the festival is to fool, appease and deceive Eritreans by seemingly pretending it possesses good public image. However, the objective reality is to the country, and as such determined Eritreans will force the regime to abandon its phony festival.

### **Employment virtually impossible without depositing Nakfa 1000 in advance**

The centre for Gulf Information has disclosed that the PFDJ regime has decreed that a citizen could only be legible for employment only if he deposits Nakfa 1000 to warrant his/her employment status. According to the source, the decree so promulgated has been enforced beginning end of November 2006. Pursuant to the decree not only new ones but also those long serving employees have to deposit that amount within government account numbers to guarantee their job securities.

The Gulf Information center is of the belief that the reckless regime has to enforce such harsh rules to stop or minimize escapees from or evaders of military conscription or compulsory military service. But this blatant and rude measure will not serve to keep the youth from abandoning military regimentation. Thousands of families, parents and close relatives of military escapees or evaders had been harassed, intimidated and imprisoned for not bringing back their beloved sons and daughters. Many had been forced a fine of hundreds of thousands of Nakfa and yet the number of evading and escaping youth is increasing by the day.

### **Call for assistance to Eritrean refugees**

A civil society, "Forum for Refugees" has demanded that the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) deliver much needed humanitarian assistances to all refugees scattered around the world in general; and the Eritrean refugees dispersed in the neighboring countries in particular.

According to Asmarino, the Secretary of the Forum, Mr. Hamd Deleshay was prompted to deliver the written document on account of the UNHCR's irresponsive mood to the plight of refugees and its negligence as regards registration of newly arrived refugees. Copies of the document were also dispatched to other humanitarian organizations to remind them give due attention to resolving the desperate situation of the refugees.

In this connection, the Forum called upon all Eritreans to voice out their demand that the rights of Eritrean refugees are fully realized and given provisions and assistance.

## Followers of various faiths brutally harassed and humiliated

COMPASS, a human rights watch organization has reported that 55 followers of the Pentecost faith which included 10 young women who have given birth only few days ago have been imprisoned by security agents of the impoverishing system.

The ugly event which took place in Mendefera on Oct. 25, 2006 was further escalated by the involvement of the police, who were rude and cruel in treating the victims.

During the scandalous raid victims also included several followers of Kale Hiwot, Mului Wenghel and Orthodox faiths. The following day, Oct.26, 2006 an additional 95 persons belonging to the Kale-Hiwot faith were driven to prison in Mendefera.

In a separate incidence, Dec. 17, 2006 two youngsters who were in jail in a military prison in Addi-Quala died from wounds they received during exhaustive investigation and torture.

## PFDJ embarks on hoarding contributions for alms

Beginning mid-last-week, security moles of the disgraced regime have started grabbing modest contributions that were raised by adherents of the Orthodox church in Asmara. As is usually the case, money so collected is meant to support the very poor and the handi-capped segments of society. St.Mary's Church was the first victim of the moles. They collected the boxes in bright morning hours while followers of the faith looked on desperately. The news which was released by AWATE upon quoting COMPASS disclosed that most Orthodox Churches in Asmara, had during the same day been over-run

by security agents and their alms boxes registered and taken away.

The reckless regime started to indulge in scandal and criminal business after having discovered very recently, a collection from contributors worth Nakfa 200,000 in a single church. Though PFDJ hooligans are known for corruption, and embezzlement of public funds, this last but desperate effort of confiscating of money from churches illustrates two motives behind the curtain: One is to harass and humiliate the church which it perceives as its arch enemy; and the other is to hoard as much money as possible to subsidize its empty coffers.

## Demonstration to be staged

The Society for Democratic and Human Rights and the International Christian Friendship society advocating for the release of political prisoners in Eritrea, both based in England, are to jointly coordinate mass demonstration for the up-coming 28 Dec. 2006.

According to reliable Eritrean media sources the planned demonstration will be staged in London in the vicinity of the PFDJ Embassy. The objective of the demonstration is a call for the fundamental need of the supremacy of law and justice in Eritrea and to condemn the anti-peace, anti-justice and anti-democratic PFDJ system.

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We wish all the Eritrean People:

*Merry Christmas And*



*Happy New Year!*